

RD

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/719,332

Examiner

Allen C. Ho

Applicant(s)

AMITANI ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 12 April 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-10,13-17 and 19-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 4-10, 13-17, and 19-24 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1, 4-10, 13-17, and 19-22, although the prior art discloses a radiation image radiographing apparatus for mammography which radiographs a patient in an upright position comprising a radiation source, a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position, a pressure plate movable up and down with respect to the subject platform for pressing and fixing the subject, and a supporting platform being positioned on an opposite side of the subject platform with respect to the radiation source for supporting a radiation image information detecting member, the prior art fails to disclose a plurality of supporting platforms for supporting a radiation image information detecting member, wherein the plurality of supporting platforms are provided at fixed distances from the radiation source, and at least two of the supporting platforms are provided at respective different distances from the radiation source as claimed.

With regard to claim 23, although the prior art discloses a radiation image radiographing apparatus comprising a radiation source, a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source, and a plurality of supporting platforms being positioned on an opposite side of the subject platform with respect to the radiation source for supporting a radiation image information detecting member for detecting radiation image information based on radiation transmitted through the subject, wherein the plurality of supporting platforms are

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provided at fixed distances from the radiation source, and at least two of the supporting platforms are provided at respective different distances from the radiation source, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that at least one of the plurality of supporting platforms comprises a cut portion, and is rotatable such that when the at least one of the plurality of supporting platforms rotates, at least a part of one of the other plurality of supporting platforms and the subject platform passes through the cut portion as claimed.

With regard to claim 24, although the prior art discloses a radiation image radiographing apparatus comprising a radiation source, a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source, and a plurality of supporting platforms being positioned on an opposite side of the subject platform with respect to the radiation source for supporting a radiation image information detecting member for detecting radiation image information based on radiation transmitted through the subject, wherein the plurality of supporting platforms are provided at fixed distances from the radiation source, and at least two of the supporting platforms are provided at respective different distances from the radiation source, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that sizes of the plurality of supporting platforms and the subject platform decreases as distances thereof from the radiation become shorter as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12 April 2006, with respect to claims 1, 4-10, 13-17, 20, and 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1, 4-10, 13-17, 20, and 22 have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- (1) Ohara (U. S. Patent No. 7,027,556 B2) disclosed a mammography apparatus.
- (2) Ohara (U. S. Patent No. 6,934,409 B2) disclosed a phase-contrast radiation image processing apparatus.
- (3) Panetta *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 4,599,738) disclosed a mammography apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached at (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Allen C. Ho, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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17 April 2006